

1000 N. Broad Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Philadelphia County
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

HABS No. RI-188

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
88-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 3, Pennsylvania

PETER W. SNOW HOUSE

HABS
RI,
4-PROV,
88-

Address: 104 Benevolent Street, Providence, Providence
County, Rhode Island.

Plat 13, lot 203.

Present Owner
and Occupant: Preston E. Dalglish and wife Marcia C.

Present Use: Dwelling.

Brief Statement
of Significance: This is a two-and-a-half-story, five-bay, frame
house, probably built in 1830, with characteristic
Greek Revival features.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATIONA. Physical History1. Original and subsequent owners:

This property is part of the land platted by Daniel
Anthony in 1803 and recorded in 1811 for the heirs of
Nicholas Cooke, "being two certain lots of land laid
out in House Lots on the North end of the Young Orchard
(so-called). . . Deed Book 33, page 374, in Providence
City Hall. . . #104 Benevolent Street includes lots #35
and #36.

1828 Zachariah Allen and wife Eliza Harriet Allen, sell
for \$305 to Jeanette and Peter Warton Snow a cer-
tain lot of land in the Young Orchard Lot (so-
called). Bounded S by Benevolent Street 50'; E
by lot #35 113'; N by lots #19 and #20 50';
W by Lot #33 and 34, being lot #35 in the parti-
tion of lots purchased by Welcome Arnold in 1797,
and platted in 1803 by D Anthony in 1803. . . Deed
Book 54, page 275, in Providence City Hall.

1829 William R Watson, sells for \$320 to Jeanette Snow
wife of Peter J Snow a lot of land on a street
formerly called Olney, now Benevolent, on which
it measures 50' in the Young Orchard Plat, so-
called. . . Deed Book 57, page 13, in Providence
City Hall, being lot #36 bounded W by lot #35 and
N by lot #20, E by #37.

1843 Will. . . Peter Warton Snow: "I give and bequeath
to my friend Henry L Bowen all my real and personal
estate in trust to be sold by said Bowen and to
apply the same to the support of my son John

Cushing Snow. . . Wills Book 15, page 49, in
Providence City Hall.

- 1845 Henry I Bowen, guardian of John Cushing Snow, sell
for \$113 to Crawford Allen, the highest bidder at
public auction, TWO certain lots of land being
lots #35 and #36 on the plat of Young Orchard
(Deed Book 33, page 374), Deed Book 91, page 500,
in Providence City Hall.
- 1845 Crawford Allen sells for \$1000 to Milton S Morse
a certain lot of land bounded: S by Benevolent
Street 80', E by lot #37 113'; W by lots #33 and
34 113', meaning to convey part of several lots
of land conveyed to me by Henry I Bowen, guardian
in 1845. . . Deed Book 97, page 163, in Providence
City Hall.
- 1882 George Morse et al sell to Susan A Monroe wife
of Henry A, a certain lot of land with all buildings,
being the same property conveyed to Milton S Morse
by Crawford Allen by deed in 1845. . . Deed Book
315, page 450, in Providence City Hall.
- 1901 Susan A Monroe sells to James Lister Jr that cer-
tain lot of land with buildings bounded S by
Benevolent Street 80' beginning 123.31' from the
N/E cor of Benevolent and Hope Street; E 113.29';
Wills Book 3, page 262, in Providence City Hall.
Being the same property with slightly changed bounds
which was conveyed to grantor by deed from George
Morse et al in 1881. . . Deed Book 436, page 369,
in Providence City Hall.

This property was taxed to the following persons in the
year designated:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 1904 Russell Grinnell | 1949 RIHT co. tr u/w |
| 1906 Rose L Grinnell wf Russell | R. Grinnell |
| 1943 Rose L Grinnell Estate | |
| | 1950 Howard A. Richmond & wife Ethel R |
| | 1950 RIHT Co 1/2...Ethel R Richmond 1/2 |
| | 1953 Preston H Dalglish & wife Marcia C |

2. Date of erection: Probably built in 1830; see letter
below in Supplemental Material "B"
3. Notes on alterations and additions: Some alterations
appear to have been made to the house as noted in the
description below.

- B. Supplemental Material: Following letter is from Henry G. Jackson of the Rhode Island Historical Society, Providence Rhode Island to Mr. Russell Grinnell, 104 Benevolent Street, Providence, Rhode Island, dated August 28, 1945:

Dear Mr. Grinnell:

Mr. Roelker has referred your letter of June 16th, to me for reply.

While I have been unable to find out who built your Benevolent Street house, the following information may prove helpful as a lead for future research.

Peter Wenton Snow was successively a mariner and a merchant in Providence, and from 1837 until his death in 1843, U.S. Consul to Canton, China. In his younger years he lived at number 16, Benevolent Street, and later at one not given in the directories, but on the same street. He had married Jeanette Smith, whose parents names I have not verified, on November 17, 1807. (Prov. Rec. 5:325)

According to the Providence Tax Book of 1827, he was taxed on \$1,000 real estate,--in addition to personal property--and in 1829 on \$2600 real, in the name of himself and wife. In 1830 until 1833, he and his wife were taxed on \$6400 real. In the last named year his name appears only, and it may be assumed that Mrs. Snow had died in the interval, although the death is not recorded in Providence. In 1834 Peter W's name is out of the Tax Book. His residence is given at 156 Benefit Street in 1841. The son, John Cushing Snow, mentioned in Peter W. Snow's will was a mental incompetent, and it appears that Henry L. Bowen, Attorney, to whom Peter transferred his property to provide a trust fund for the maintenance of his son (who did not die until Oct. 16, 1853), was a close personal friend as well. (Prov. Will Book, Vol. 15, pp 45/6).

My boyhood home was 10 Young Orchard Avenue, and the Monroes were friends of my parents. I have been in the 104 Benevolent Street house quite a few times. As I recall, my father used to refer to the property as "the Snow place."

If Peter W. Snow built your house, the date 1830 would seem logical on account of the increase in the Tax assessment in that year.

According to the MSS genealogy of the Snow family in the R.I. Historical Society, Peter Wenton Snow was the son of Captain Samuel Snow of the Continental Army in the Revolution, and his wife Frances, daughter of Capt. Peter and Elizabeth (Gardner) Canton.

I trust this information will assist you in learning more definite facts about the origin of your home.

Very sincerely yours,

/s/ Henry G. Jackson

Prepared by Intednette F. Downing and Elvira Cowley
for the Providence Preservation Society
December 1961.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: This house, probably built in 1830, is an example of the conservative manner of the Greek Revival in Providence, characterized by the flat interior moldings, the marble mantels, the gable pediments, the corner pilasters, and the Doric porches which may be slightly later.
2. Condition of fabric: Excellent

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Main block faces south, five bays wide, about 40' square, two-and-a-half stories, with two small bay windows on first floor on west side. Small, one-story wing to east; two-story rear wing to northeast.
2. Foundations: Rough faced ashlar masonry
3. Wall construction: Frame, clapboards, flat paneled corner pilasters.
4. Porches: One-story Doric porch across entire front with six columns, center **intercolumniation** slightly wider. Porch on west side between bay windows with two columns. Porches apparently slightly later than the house. Rear porch on west side of rear wing.
5. Chimneys: Two inside brick chimneys in main block, one in rear wing.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Six-panel main entrance door, raised panels, side lights, molded frame with peaked lintel. French doors from bay windows to side porch.

- b. Windows and shutters: six over six light, double hung, wood windows, simple molded frames. Adjustable louvered shutters. One window in east wing, round headed, two over two light, extends to floor, probably later.

7. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs, shingled, ridge of roof over main block runs parallel to street.
- b. Cornice: Simple molded cornice and entablature, carried across gable ends to form pediments on main block.
- c. Dormers: Long, shed-roofed dormer, with four windows, extends nearly the entire length of the front, may be later.

C. Technical Description of Interior

- 1. Floor plans: Central entrance hall, L-shape with stairway in rear, transverse leg of hall to the east, four rooms on main floor, two front parlors on south, large dining room northwest, small study in east wing, kitchen and utility rooms in rear wing to northeast. Similar arrangement on second floor with bedrooms, two bedrooms on third floor of main block.
- 2. Stairway: Apparently later, L-shaped to third floor, open well, closed string, molded outside stringer, molded ramped rail scrolled at bottom newel, turned newels, slender rectangular balusters.
- 3. Flooring: Apparently modern strip flooring.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster. Dining room paneled 5-1/2' high, probably later but paneling matches paneled window aprons in same room with flat, stepped, Greek Revival moldings.
- 5. Doorways and doors: Five-panel doors on first floor. Four-panel doors on second floor with typical Greek Revival moldings and sunk panels.
- 6. Trim: Pilaster trim with bull's-eye corner blocks in central hall, first floor, probably not original. Flat paneled architraves in first floor rooms and on second floor. Paneled wainscot in central hall, apparently not original. Paneled aprons under first floor windows with characteristic Greek Revival, shallow ogee molding and slightly raised panel.

7. Hardware: Silver plated front door knob. Large glass knobs with oval brass escutcheons on inside doors.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Central hot air. Four fireplaces; one-story, black marble mantels in southeast parlor, study, and southwest room on second floor, with marble columns except in study. Two-story wood mantel in dining room; **crosseted** fireplace surround of moldings and Greek **key**, entablature with wide center panel, molded shelf with fret; **crosseted** over-mantel panel, flat paneled pilasters at the sides of over-mantel.

D. Site

1. General setting: On a small lot, in a residential section, elevated about 6' above the sidewalk.
2. Enclosures: Open wood fence with granite corner posts along front.
3. Outbuildings: Two-story, double garage at northwest corner of yard, probably originally a small barn.
4. Walks, Driveways: Brick walks with granite steps. Driveway of Belgian blocks.
5. Landscaping: Lawn, trees, and shrubs around south front and west side.

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby, Architect
National Park Service
December 1961.